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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, we begin this day with disturbing questions that won't go away. What would we do and say today if we loved You with all our hearts? How would we deal with the present challenges we face here in the Senate if we put You and the welfare of our Nation first above all else? What do You want us to do to move forward?

You have taught us, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Is Your promise applicable to us in our circumstances? Will You give us power to remove the mountainous differences that often divide us if we have faith in You—even as small as a mustard seed? We dare to claim that You will.

Therefore, we ask You to guide us to Your solutions for our present concerns. Bring us together in unity around what is most creative for our Nation. We place our faith in You. Nothing is impossible for You. Help us Lord, we need You. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the Senator from Mississippi, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for the recognition. The Senate will immediately resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution

57, the concurrent budget resolution, and will begin a lengthy series of consecutive rollcall votes, all on or in relationship to amendments. The first vote will be 15 minutes in length, but all remaining votes in the sequence are limited to 10 minutes in length. Senators are asked—implored—to remain in or around the Senate Chamber throughout this voting sequence in order to facilitate the votes and hope to complete action on the budget resolution before a late hour tonight.

Again, I plead with the Senators to stay on the floor so we can go through this series of votes. It inconveniences all Senators when we have one or two that get lost down the hall. Please stay close. I believe we can finish this series of votes in a reasonable period of time.

I want to thank the managers of the bill, the chairman of the committee and the ranking member from Nebraska. They have been working hard to get through this list of amendments. I know they will continue to work to see if the long list can be reduced further by voice vote, or whatever, throughout the day. I ask for all possible cooperation with them.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1788

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill due for its second reading. I ask for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1788) to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal those provisions of Federal law that require employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 57) setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Boxer amendment No. 3982, to preserve, protect, and strengthen the Medicaid program by controlling costs, providing State flexibility, and restoring critical standards and protections, including coverage for all populations covered under current law, to restore \$18 billion in excessive cuts, offset by corporate and business tax reforms, and to express the sense of the Senate regarding certain Medicaid reforms.

Wyden-Kerry amendment No. 3984, to express the sense of the Senate regarding revenue assumptions.

Wellstone amendment No. 3985, to express the sense of the Senate on tax deductibility of higher education tuition and student loan interest costs.

Wellstone-Kerry amendment No. 3986, to express the sense of the Senate that funds will be available to hire new police officers under the Community Oriented Policing Service.

Wellstone amendment No. 3987, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress will not enact or adopt any legislation that would increase the number of children who are hungry or homeless.

Wellstone amendment No. 3988, to express the sense of the Senate with respect to maintaining current expenditure levels for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 1997.

Wellstone amendment No. 3989, to express the sense of the Senate with respect to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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